

Docket No. F-7872

Scr. No. 10/603,316

RFST AVAILABLE COPY**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus having comprising:

a fingerprint reader, a fingerprint verifier, and a power supply circuit, the fingerprint reader being configured to read a fingerprint, the fingerprint verifier being configured to verify the read fingerprint based on registered fingerprint data, and according to a result of the verification, authenticate a person who entered the fingerprints[[,]] :

a [[the]] locking apparatus being mechanism configured to unlock, if the person is authenticated, a door locked with the locking apparatus, ~~the locking apparatus comprising:~~ :

a chamber having an opening and configured to contain , opposing sides at the opening and a planar bottom surface extending from the sides and across a bottom edge of the opening with a surface of the fingerprint reader [[,]] disposed in and level with the planar bottom surface, the chamber being configured aligned about the fingerprint reader to receive a finger through the opening in an insertion orientation guided by the opening and the chamber to align the finger with the fingerprint reader;

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a lid configured to open and close the opening of the chamber, the lid being rotatably supported to rotate inward with respect to said chamber to open the opening of the chamber when urged by insertion of the finger and to allow access to the fingerprint reader by the finger to input the fingerprint; and

a switch provided for the power supply circuit and configured to interlock with the lid so as to turn on and off the power supply circuit in response to the opening and closing of the lid.

2. (Previously Presented) The locking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lid is made of conductive material and is grounded.

3. (Currently Amended) The locking apparatus of claim 1, further comprising →

— the fingerprint reader in the chamber being oriented toward a finger inserting direction;

— and

a biasing device biasing the lid toward a position where the lid closes the opening of the chamber.

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4. (Currently Amended) The locking apparatus of claim 2, further comprising [::]

~~the fingerprint reader in the chamber being oriented toward a finger inserting direction;~~

~~and~~

a biasing device biasing the lid toward a position where the lid closes the opening of the chamber.

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